

Message Text

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71

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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R 051034Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8157

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

INFO AMCONSUL LAHORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KARACHI 1230

E.O. 11652: N61-

TAGS: PINS, PK

SUBJECT: STREET DEMONSTRATIONS AND FIRING INCIDENT IN
HYDERABAD FOLLOWING PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY BY ELECTION

1. BYE ELECTION IN HYDERABAD HELD JUNE 2 FOR SIND PROVINCIAL
ASSEMBLY SEAT VACATED BY DEATH OF JUP MPA MUNIR AHMED ARAIN
RESULTED IN CLOSE VICTORY FOR PPP CANDIDATE B.H. ZAIDI WITH
24,900 VOTES, OVER JUP CANDIDATE AHAD YOUSAF WITH 23,765 VOTES.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF PPP VICTORY WAS FOLLOWED BY STREET
DEMONSTRATIONS PROTESTING ELECTION RESULTS. CLASHES BETWEEN
DEMONSTRATORS AND POLICE IN ELECTION DISTRICT OF HYDERABAD CITY
CONCERNED, WHICH HAS LARGELY MUHAJIR POPULATION, THEN ENSUED.
POPULATION ANGERED BY WIDESPREAD BELIEF THAT VOTING IRREGULARITIES
WERE RESORTED TO BY PPP POLITICIANS. WHETHER THESE CHARGES TRUE
OR NOT, BIG GUNS OF PPP FROM KARACHI AND ELSEWHERE IN PROVINCE
HAVE BEEN ELECTIONEERING IN DISTRICT TO ASSURE PPP VICTORY AND
HAVE NO DOUBT EXERTED SOME PRESSURE ON LOCAL LEADERS.

3. LOCAL PRESS HAS REPORTED AT LEAST TWO AND PERHAPS FOUR PERSONS
KILLED BY POLICE FIRING AND NUMBER INJURED BY POLICE LATHI CHARGES
DURING EFFORTS CONTAIN STREET DEMONSTRATIONS. SHUT DOWN (HARTAL)

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OF SHOPS AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY IN HYDERABAD AS GESTURE OF

SYMPATHY FOR THOSE KILLED AND INJURED TOOK PLACE JUNE 3. REPORTS ON JUNE 4 INDICATED HYDERABAD ALMOST ENTIRELY CLOSED DOWN. ON MORNING OF JUNE 5 SOME SHOPS HAD OPENED AND CITY REPORTED AS QUIET BUT TENSE.

4. DISSIDENT PPP LEADER, MIR RASUL BUX TALPUR OF HYDERABAD, WHO ABSENTED HIMSELF FROM RALLIES FOR PPP CANDIDATE ZAIDI THROUGHOUT ELECTION CAMPAIGN HAS STRONGLY CONDEMNED POLICE FIRING ON "INNOCENT, DEMOCRATIC AND PEACEFUL PEOPLE OF HYDERABAD" AFTER STREET DISTURBANCES. TALPUR ADDED "I HAVE NO HESITATION TO DECLARE THAT (SHOOTING) IS DIRECT RESULT AND REACTION OF TYRANT RULERS' HIGH-HANDEDNESS AND GANGSTERISM" AND THAT THERE WAS NO SIMILAR EXAMPLE IN SIND HISTORY OF SUCH MISDEEDS TO OBTAIN ELECTION PPP CANDIDATE. HE CALLED FOR CANCELLATION OF BYE ELECTION RESULTS, AS HAVE OPPOSITION LEADERS.

5. IN RESPONSE, SIND CHIEF MINISTER JATOI HAS ORDERED IMMEDIATE INQUIRY INTO SHOOTING AND HAS APPOINTED DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF THATTA TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATION. JATOI ALSO ORDERED COMPENSATION PAID TO DECEASED AND HAS SENT SENIOR PROVINCIAL MINISTER KHATPAR TO HYDERABAD TO ATTEMPT TO SMOOTH OVER MATTERS. HOWEVER, JUP LEADER AND SECRETARY OF KARACHI UDF, M.A. SIDDIQUI, HAS APPEALED TO FOLLOWERS IN KARACHI TO OBSERVE A HARTAL ON FRIDAY, JUNE 7 TO PROTEST ALLEGED MALPRACTICES OF GOVERNMENT IN HYDERABAD BYE ELECTION AS WELL AS MISBEHAVIOR IN HANDLING OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS DURING RECENT DEMONSTRATIONS HERE.

6. COMMENT: VIOLZRT MUHAJIR REACTION IN HYDERABAD TO ELECTION OF PPP CANDIDATE INDICATIVE OF WIDESPREAD BELIEF UGONG THIS GROUP THAT PPP IS PARTY OF SINDHI AGRICULTURISTS AND OF SINDHI INTERESTS IN GENERAL. OPPOSITION PARTIES AND DISSIDENT PPP MEMBERS SUCH AS TALPUR STEPPING IN TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF RESTIVE SITUATION.
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